

# March 16, 2025

## Second Sunday in Lent

### WELCOME

#### PRELUDES (*A Time for Quiet Meditation*)

*Piece Finale*  
*Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*

*Eugene Gigout*  
*Robin Rokey*

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRAYER CONCERNS AND REQUESTS

**CHORAL INTROIT #544**      *Bless the Lord*      *Bless the Lord (Taizé)*  
***Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.***  
***Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.***

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#### RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 103:1-5)

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

**All: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits -**

One: Who forgives all your iniquity...who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;

**All: Who satisfies you with good as long as you live.**

**\*OPENING SONG #67**      *My Song Forever Shall Record*      *Puer Nobis Nascitur*  
*(verse 1)*

***My song forever shall record the tender mercies of the Lord; your faithful love will I proclaim, and every age shall know your name.***

*(verse 2)*

***I sing of mercies that endure, forever firm, forever sure, a strong support that never dies, established changeless in the skies.***

*(verse 3)*

***Almighty God, your lofty throne has justice for its cornerstone, and shining bright before your face are truth and love and boundless grace.***

#### CALL TO CONFESSION (Based on Isaiah 55:1)

One: Are you thirsty for grace? Are you hungry for mercy? Come, God is calling us to be filled. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins:

#### UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of mercy, you sent Jesus to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained and great when we are small. We have fallen short in mercy, neglected justice, and turned away from your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to the paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

\*Please stand as you are able.

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Based on Isaiah 55:3)**

One: Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Having called upon the wide arms of our gracious God, know that you are forgiven. With joy, may we amplify God's grace into the whole world.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## **\*SONG OF RESPONSE #695**

*Change My Heart, O God*                      *Change My Heart*  
**Change my heart, O God; make it ever true. Change my heart,  
O God; may I be like you. You are the Potter; I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray. Change my heart, O God;  
make it ever true. Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.**

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## **\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

One: God has poured out love upon us, and we have received forgiveness for our sins. We can now live in peace! May mercy and love be yours in abundance. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And, also, with you.**

## **WORD**

### **UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Merciful God, open us to your Word and your way. Help us to seek you, your truth, and the message you intend for us today. Amen.**

### **RESPONSIVE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

*Isaiah 58:10-14*

One: If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,

**All: Then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.**

One: The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong,

**All: And you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail.**

One: Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;

**All: You shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.**

One: If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the Lord honorable;

**All: If you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests or pursuing your own affairs;**

One: Then you shall take delight in the Lord, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;

**All: I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.**

### **CHORAL ANTHEM**

*Jesu, Blessed Jesu*

*Young*

\*Please stand as you are able.

## **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

*Luke 13:10-17*

<sup>10</sup> Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. <sup>11</sup> And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. <sup>12</sup> When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." <sup>13</sup> When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. <sup>14</sup> But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day." <sup>15</sup> But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? <sup>16</sup> And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?" <sup>17</sup> When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

## **SERMON**

*"Mercy Is at the Heart"*

*Rev. Dr. John Wahl*

## **DESCRIPTION OF PRAISE**

"Now to the one who, by the power at work within us, is able to do far more abundantly than all we can ask or imagine, to God be the glory." (Ephesians 3:20)

## **UNISON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (From "A Brief Statement of Faith")**

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. Amen.**

## **WITNESS**

## **INVITATION TO OFFERING**

*We take this time to reflect and recognize all contributions of time, talent, and treasure. A basket is available for making monetary donations.*

## **OFFERTORY**

*Lento Maestoso*

*Allen James*

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION / PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### \*SENDING SONG #767

*Together We Serve*

*San Anselmo*

*(verse 1)*

***Together we serve, united by love, inviting God's world to the glorious feast. We work and we pray through sorrow and joy, extending God's love to the last and the least.***

*(verse 2)*

***We seek to become a beacon of hope, a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet. We learn, year by year, to let love shine through until we see Christ in each person we meet.***

*(verse 3)*

***We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor, the busy, the lonely, and all who need care. We offer a home to those who will come, our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.***

*(verse 4)*

***Together, by grace, we witness and work, remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong. Together we serve in Spirit and truth, remembering love is the strength of our song.***

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### \*BENEDICTION

### \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*You Are Mine*

*Haas / McDaniel*

### POSTLUDE

*Crown Him with Many Crowns*

*John Troutman*

\*Please stand as you are able.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Flowers

The flowers today are given by Marilyn & Dave Rodenhausen in celebration of family birthdays.

### Feeding Our Neighbors

See March Valley Voice for additional information.

### **Monday, March 17**

3:00 p.m. – meal preparation in the Church kitchen

5:00 p.m. – depart for meal delivery

Individuals, groups, or families (up to five people) are welcome to sign up to join Pastor John for either shift. Menus will be posted on the sign-up sheet.

### Celebration for Pass-it-on

Join us on **Sunday, March 23**, as we recognize and thank the dedicated volunteers who help to make Pass-it-on a success. We will be sharing stories, photos, and (of course) special treats during Fellowship Time. Hope you will join us!

## Bainbridge UCC Partnership - Upcoming Worship Schedule

### **Sunday, March 23**

Combined Worship at Pass-It-On Celebration at Valley

### **Sunday, March 30**

Combined Mission Sunday Worship at Bainbridge – Town Hall to Follow

## Bread for the World – Offering of Letters

### **Sunday, March 23 (during fellowship)**

Every year, Bread for the World organizes churches, community organizations, and people of faith from across the country to write letters and emails to their members of Congress who have the power to impact the policies and programs that can end hunger. By taking part in Bread for the World's 2025 Offering of Letters, we will help support domestic and international nutrition programs that offer a hand up to families and a brighter future for children. By joining with the voices of thousands of advocates across the country, we believe God uses these letters to change hearts and minds, and again and again, Bread for the World wins help and opportunity for our neighbors who face hunger.

During Fellowship Time on Sunday, March 23, we will take a few minutes to write your members of Congress, urging them to help families and children experiencing hunger and poverty—no matter where they live. Sample letters can be found to print or send by email at [www.bread.org/offering-letters](http://www.bread.org/offering-letters).

## Knitting For Others

Inviting all folks from 12-100 years of age, who like to knit or who would like to learn, to be a part of Valley's Knitting Group.



**The group will meet Sundays, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.:  
March 23**

This group has been busy knitting prayer blankets and shawls for members of our congregation. It takes a lot of yarn to knit or crochet these items. Many of us have made items in the past but not used quite all of the yarn. Knitting for Others can use the leftover yarn to make items to share with others. If you have any worsted size-4 or bulky size-5 yarn that you will not be using and could share with Knitting for Others, we certainly would appreciate your donation. Yarn can be left in the box marked “yarn” in the Library. Thank you so much for your help.

For questions, please call one of our Co-Chairs, Beverly or Bev:

Beverly Wahl  
502-553-7255

Bev Keough  
330-888-5385

## 2025 Year-long Bible Study

### **Every Day for Everyone 365 Devotions from Genesis to Revelation**

This collection of reflections encompasses the entirety of the Bible - taking you on a journey from the beginnings of creation and humanity's journey with God in Genesis through the history of Israel to the life of Jesus and the birth of the church in the New Testament.

Each daily devotion includes:

- Scripture reference (usually not more than one chapter);
- A one-page, thoughtful commentary on that day's passage;
- A prayer echoing the Scripture and reflection from that day.

Join Pastor John on a 2025 journey through the Bible; group times for discussion will be planned throughout the year. Books are available through the church office for \$17.

### Every Day for Everyone – Daily Bible Study discussion

Those participating in the Every Day for Everyone Daily Bible Study (and anyone else interested) are invited to gather for questions and discussion.

Group Discussion Time

**Sunday, March 23**

12:30-1:30 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary

### CFPCC Food Bank Needs

Please consider donating the following items to help stock the shelves at Chagrin Falls Park Community Center for tacos for March:



**Hard or soft tacos, ground beef, taco seasoning, salsa, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, shredded cheese, guacamole, sour cream, refried beans, or anything you would like to donate.**

CFPCC is receiving donations at your car. Someone will come out and retrieve donations.

### Pass-it-on Resale Store



The **store will be open** on:

**Friday, April 4**

(1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)

**Saturday, April 5**

(10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

Pass-it-on is accepting donations. Please contact Brenda Wahl at 440-829-7841 or [passitonamissionoflove@gmail.com](mailto:passitonamissionoflove@gmail.com).

## Notes from the Kitchen

We are so grateful for everyone's generosity in supporting Fellowship! Thanks to your kindness, we are well stocked with serving products. However, we always welcome donations of baked goods! If you leave anything in the kitchen or refrigerator, please label it clearly. With many groups using this space each week, it can be difficult to identify which items belong to whom.

In an effort to be more eco-friendly, we are no longer using styrofoam products. Thank you for helping us make the kitchen a more sustainable space!

## Donations – Credit Card or Zelle

Credit card donations can be accepted on-line at the Valley Presbyterian Website below or through *Zelle*. Check with your financial institution to see if they offer *Zelle*. Call the office with any questions.

On-line donations -  
<http://valleypresbychurch.org>

*Zelle* donations -



<b><u>VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</u></b>		
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